

REMARKS

1. Claim 7 has been canceled, claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 15 have been amended and new claim 16 added in the present response. Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are now pending in the case.

2. Claim 7 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. Claim 7 has been canceled and its limitations incorporated into amended base claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Amended claim 1 now recites a vehicle-mounted audible signal generator that produces a sound field pattern covering a geographic zone. The signal generator includes a plurality of high power amplifiers that drive a plurality of loudspeakers. A digital signal processor (DSP) supplies a plurality of signals for driving the amplifiers and loudspeakers. The DSP is configured to dynamically control frequencies, amplitudes, and phases of the signals such that the loudspeakers produce a determined sound field pattern having a high amplitude covering a geographic zone, and whereby the sound field pattern dynamically changes as the vehicle advances toward the geographic zone. For example, although not so limited by the claim, the signal generator may reside on a train locomotive to produce a sound field pattern covering a portion of roadway near a grade crossing, whereby the sound field dynamically changes to maintain coverage over the desired portion of roadway as the train advances.

Claims 2-6 and 8-14 are in condition for allowance for the reason of their dependence on amended base claim 1.

Claim 15 has been amended in substantially corresponding fashion to claim 1 and is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Amended claim 15 now recites a train whistle adapted for operation on a moving locomotive to produce a sound field directed toward a predetermined geographic zone. The train whistle includes a plurality of high power amplifiers that drive a plurality of loudspeakers. A digital signal processor (DSP) supplies a plurality of signals for driving the amplifiers and loudspeakers. The DSP is configured to control frequencies, amplitudes, and phases of the signals such that the loudspeakers produce a sound field directed

toward a pre-determined geographic zone, and whereby the sound field dynamically changes as the locomotive advances toward the geographic zone.

New claim 16 is in condition for allowance for the reason of its dependence on amended base claim 15.

2. Claims 1, 5, 9, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al, US Patent 6,457,682; claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Milsap, US Patent Application Publication 2003/0185404; claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yanagawa et al, US Patent 5,233,664; claims 2-4, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of Welk, US Patent 5,890,682; and claims 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson.

Base claims 1 and 15 have been amended to incorporate limitations relating to a claim 7, which was indicated to be allowable over the applied art. Accordingly, amended claims 1 and 15 patentably distinguish over Anderson, Milsap, Yanagawa and Welk, alone or in combination.

Claims 2-6 and 8-14 are in condition for allowance for the reason of their dependence on amended base claim 1.

3. In view of the above amendments and remarks, a notice of allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-16 is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Lucent Technologies Deposit Account No. 12-2325.

Respectfully submitted,

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